

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: June 21, 2001

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-55)

TO: Allyn Meuleman  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Jim Brown Creek Streambank Stabilization Project

**Project No:** 96-077-02

**Work Order No:** 00075450

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis**  
**(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 1.8 Bank Protection Through Vegetation Management, 1.9 Structural Bank Protection Using Bioengineering Methods.

**Location:** Lolo Creek Watershed, Clearwater County, Idaho.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Potlatch Corporation.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund a project that will stabilize streambanks on Jim Brown Creek located in the Lolo Creek Watershed, Idaho. The primary goal of this project is to reduce sedimentation and restore the hydrologic regime within the watershed. Objectives of this goal include: restore the natural sediment and water temperature regime, restore natural channel geometry, and restore natural riparian plant communities. Restoration of streambanks on Jim Brown Creek will decrease erosion and decrease stream temperatures. The decreased sediment input will improve fish spawning gravels and rearing habitat both locally and downstream of the project site.

Jim Brown Creek is listed on Idaho's Water Quality Limited List of the Clean Water Act Section 404(d). Its limitations include bacteria, habitat alteration, flow alteration, nutrients, sediment, and temperature. Jim Brown Creek is heavily impacted by agriculture, roads, timber harvest, and grazing. This project will restore altered habitat, reinstate natural flow patterns, abate sediment inputs to the stream and reduce instream temperatures with the rehabilitation of native riparian vegetation.

The project will lay back the slope of the eroding streambanks on approximately 400 feet of stream, reserving the topsoil and sod for finish work. Native vegetation will be replaced to reinforce the bank using bioengineering techniques such as brush mattresses and tree revetments. Equipment to be used consists primarily of hand tools. Two small sections of the stream will require the use of a tracked backhoe to remove log cribbing from an abandoned road crossing.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Heidi McRoberts with the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Watershed Program and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, steelhead, spring/summer chinook salmon, bull trout, water howellia, and Ute ladies'-tresses are the potentially affected listed threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of this project. The proposed actions are also within designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for coho salmon and chinook salmon. A Biological Assessment was submitted by BPA to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). For USFWS listed species including Canada lynx, bald eagle, water howellia, Ute-ladies' tresses, and bull trout a determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" was concluded and for gray wolf a determination of "no effect" was concluded. The USFWS concurred with these findings on April 13, 2001. For NMFS listed species and EFH a determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" was concluded and NMFS concurred with this finding on May 25, 2001.

A pedestrian cultural resource survey was conducted by the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resource Program for the entire project area. In a report dated May 22, 2001, it was documented that no significant archaeological or cultural resources were discovered as a result of this survey. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are encountered during any phase of the project, the Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resource Program would be contacted immediately and all ground disturbing activities would stop until the materials in question were properly assessed for significance.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart 6-21-01

Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR: /s/ James Kehoe  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 6/21/01

**Attachments:**

NEPA Compliance Checklist  
NMFS Concurrence Letter  
USFWS Concurrence Letter

cc: (w/ attachments)  
Heidi Mc Roberts – Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Watershed Program